



US009258794B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Belloni et al.

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,258,794 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Feb. 9, 2016**

(54) **METHOD, AND APPARATUS FOR
DETERMINING THE POSITION USING
RADIO SIGNALS**

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this
patent is extended or adjusted under 35
U.S.C. 154(b) by 404 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **13/581,860**

(22) PCT Filed: **Mar. 1, 2010**

(86) PCT No.: **PCT/IB2010/050861**

§ 371 (c)(1),
(2), (4) Date: **Aug. 30, 2012**

(87) PCT Pub. No.: **WO2011/107825**

PCT Pub. Date: **Sep. 9, 2011**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2012/0326929 A1 Dec. 27, 2012

(51) **Int. Cl.**
G01S 1/12 (2006.01)
H04W 64/00 (2009.01)
G01S 1/24 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC . **H04W 64/00** (2013.01); **G01S 1/24** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC G01S 1/12; G01S 1/08; G01S 1/24;
H01Q 21/06; H01Q 21/24; H04W 64/00
USPC 342/417, 362, 386
See application file for complete search history.

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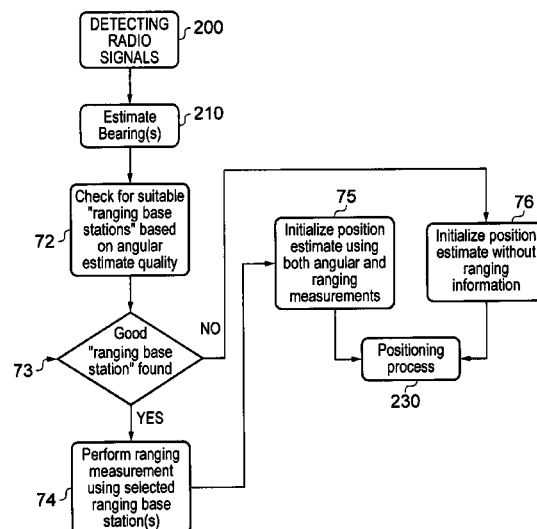
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A method, comprising: detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location; using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location; and using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information.

18 Claims, 9 Drawing Sheets



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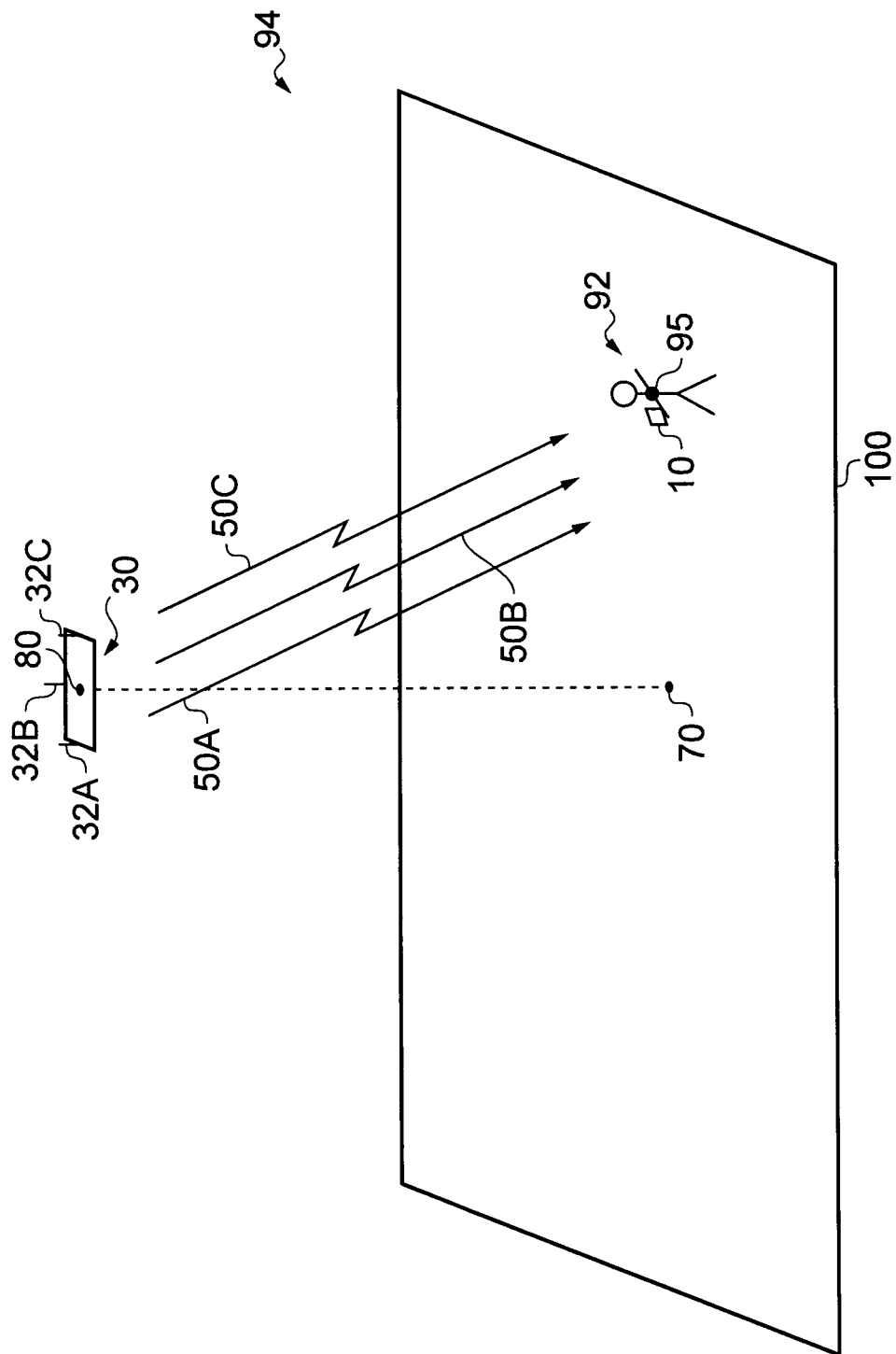


FIG. 1

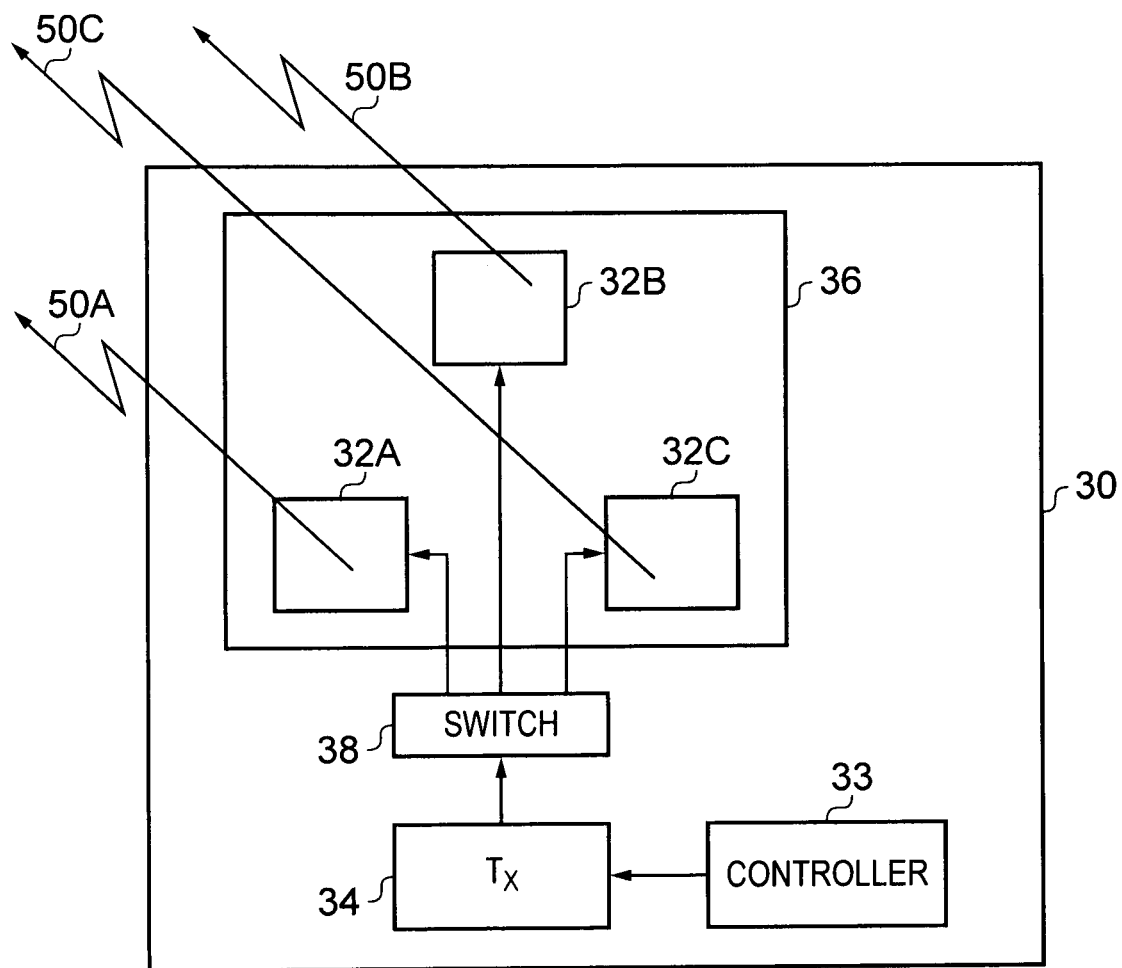


FIG. 2A

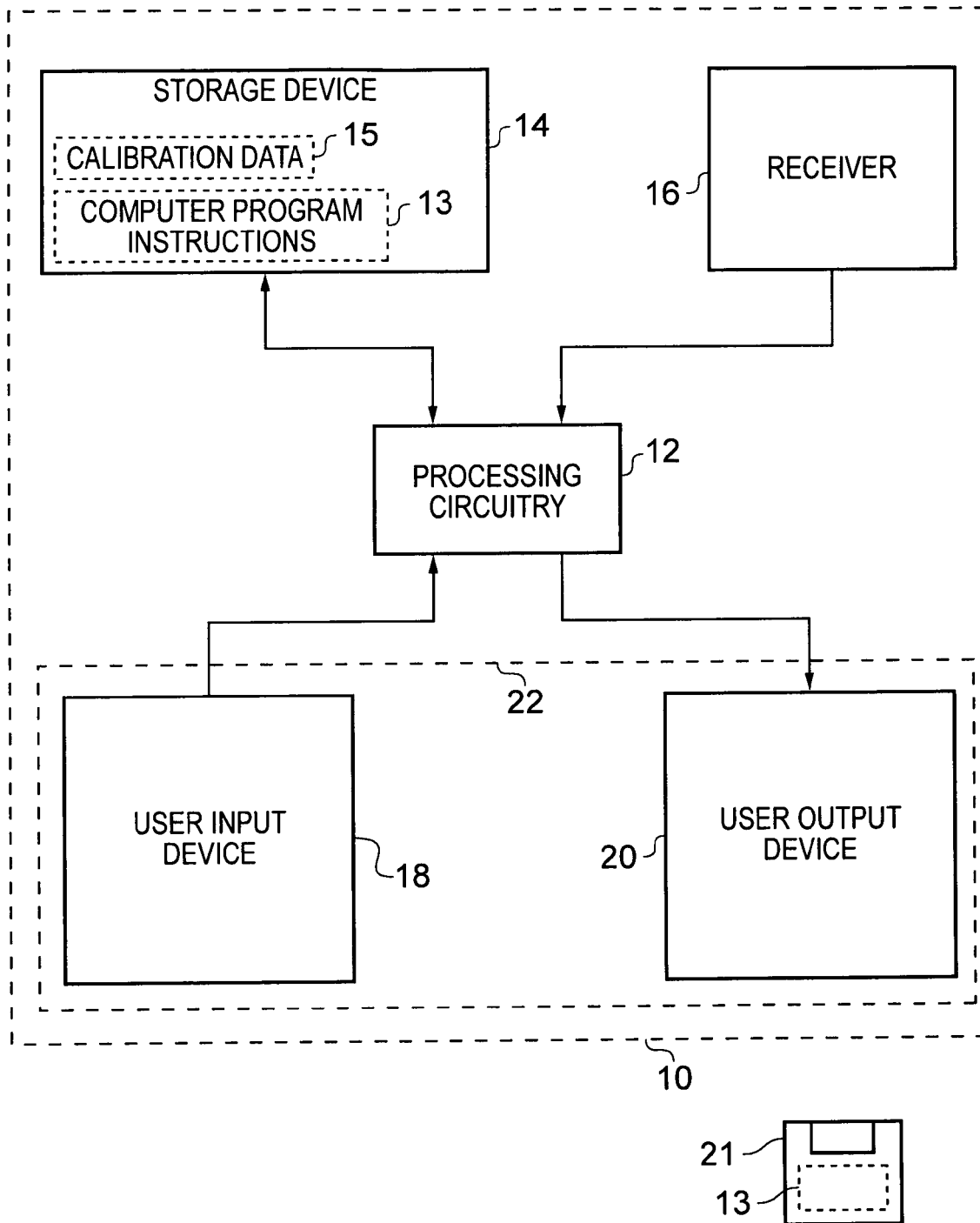


FIG. 2B

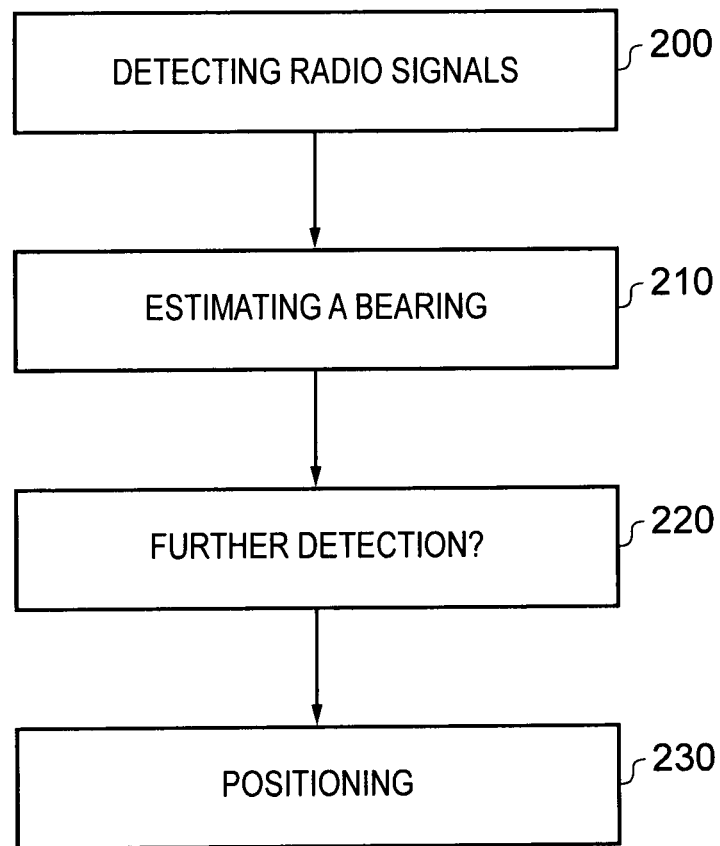


FIG. 3

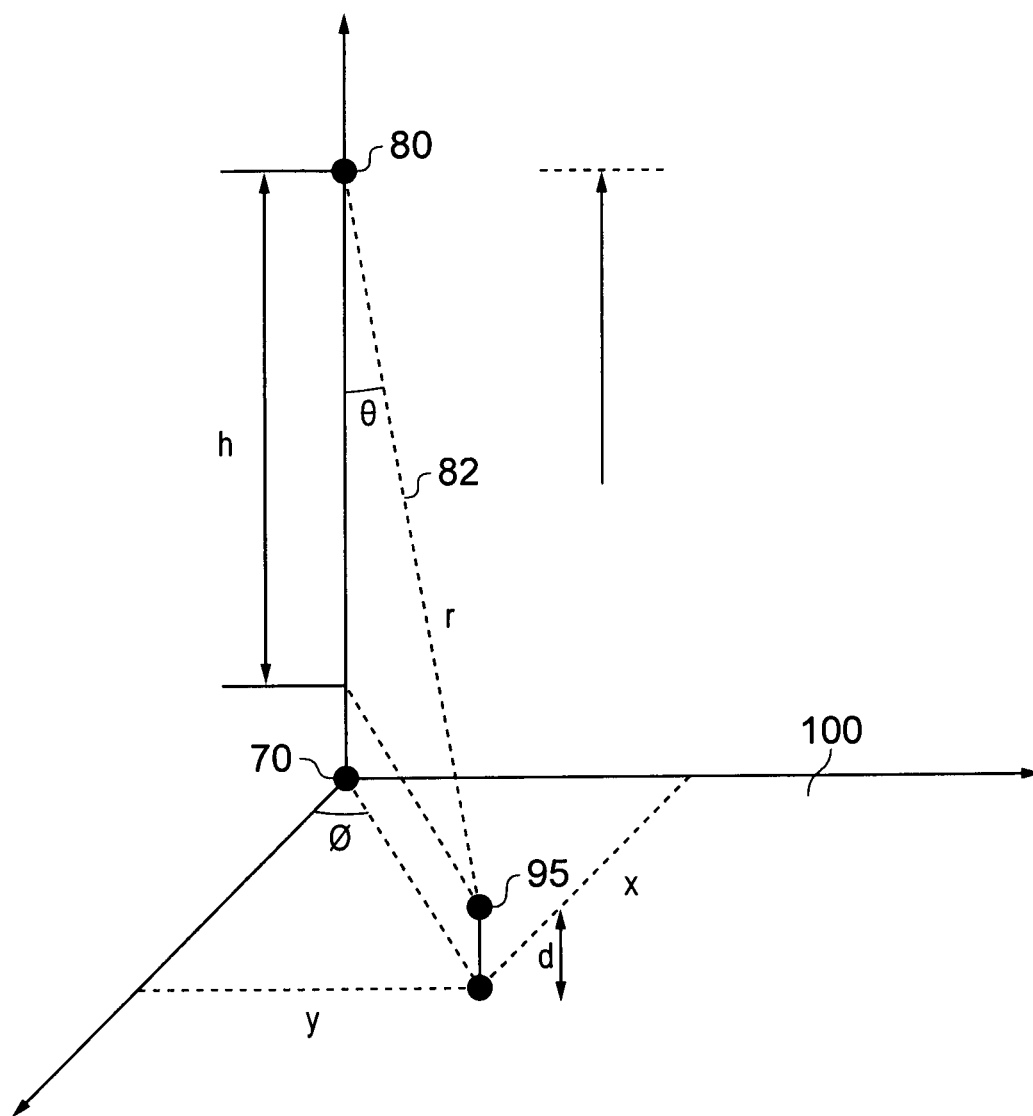


FIG. 4

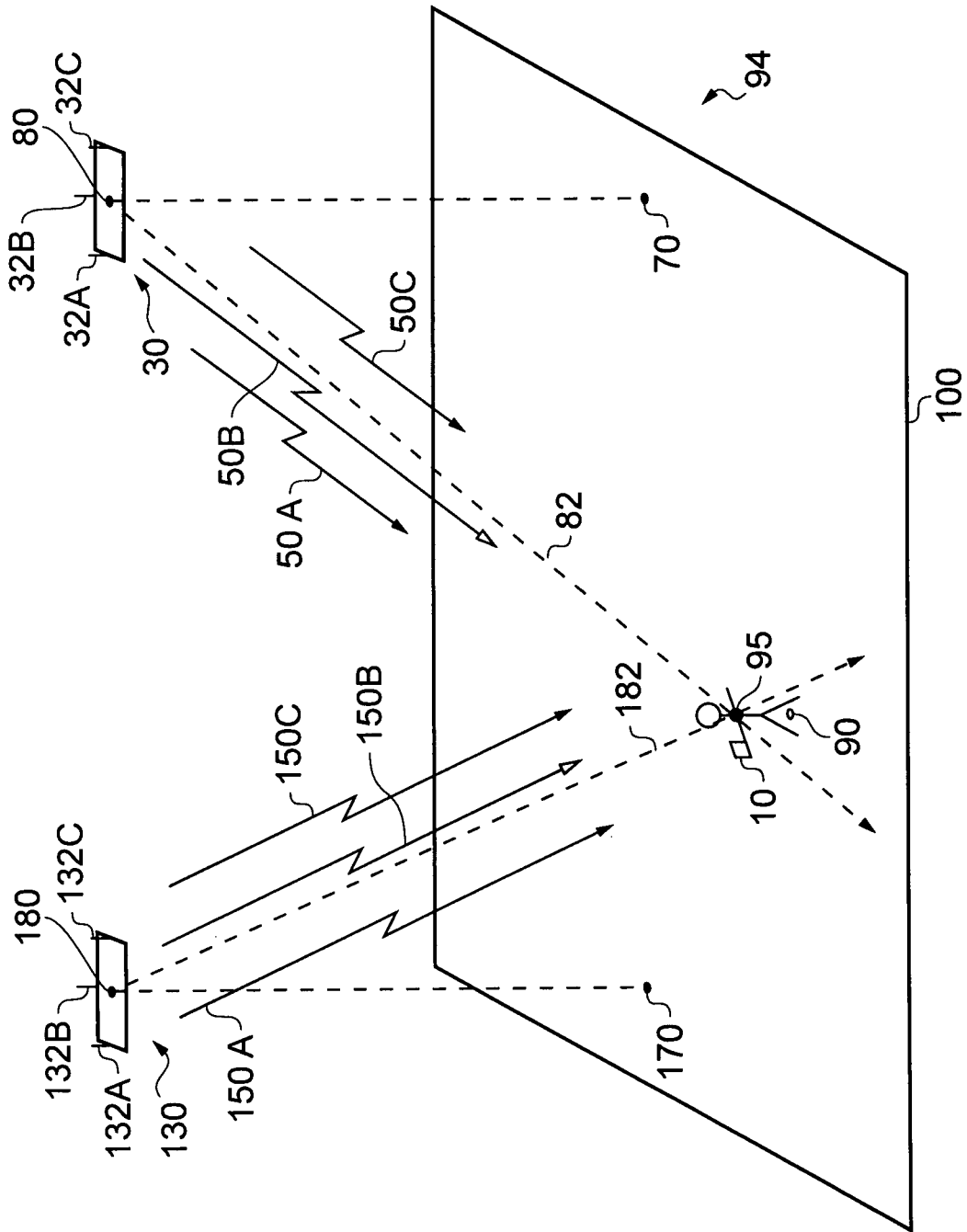


FIG. 5

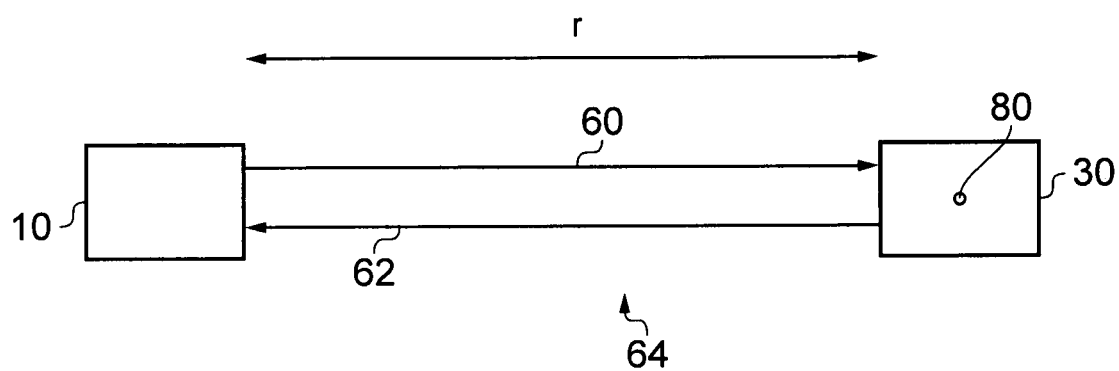


FIG. 6

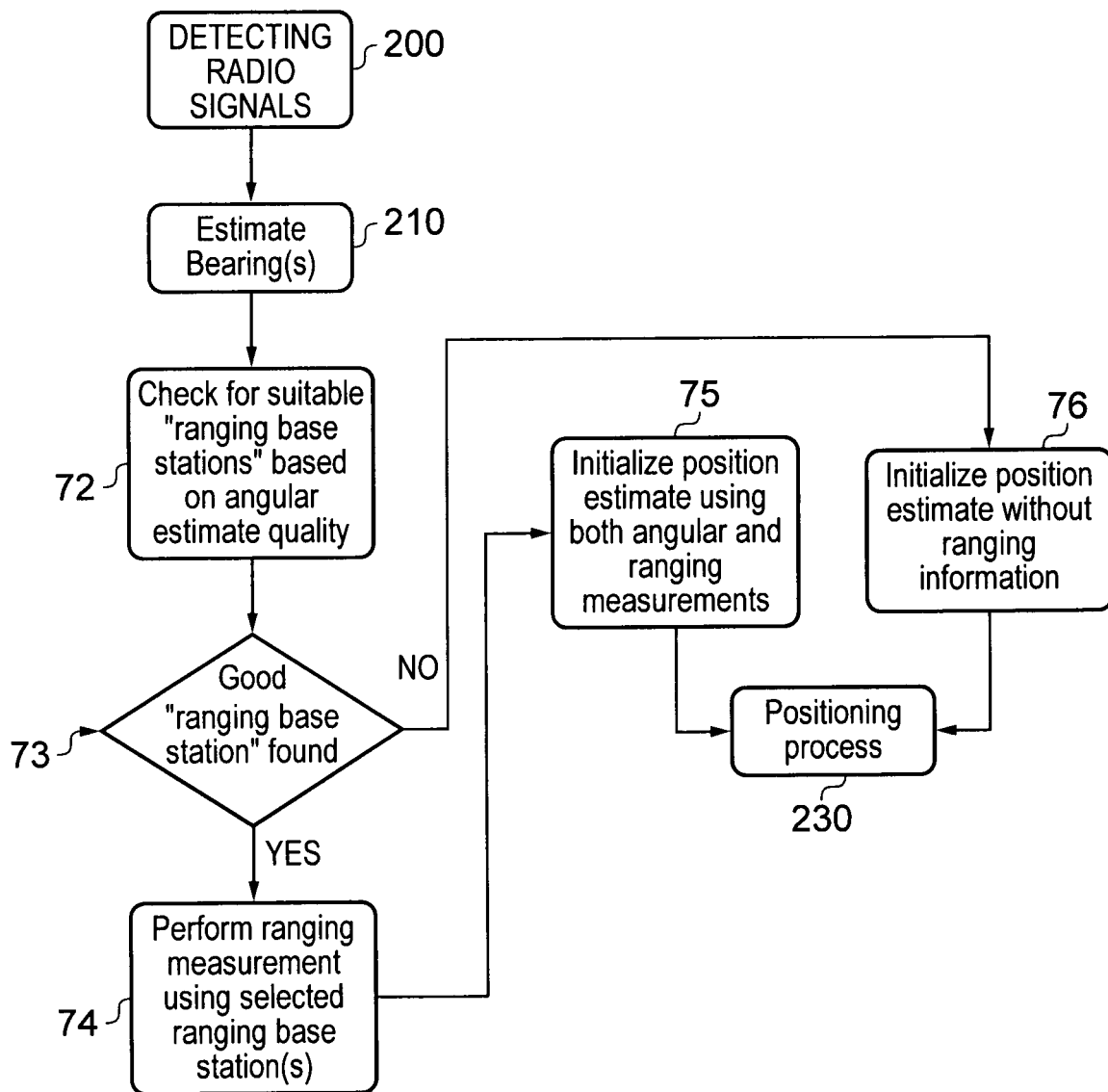


FIG. 7

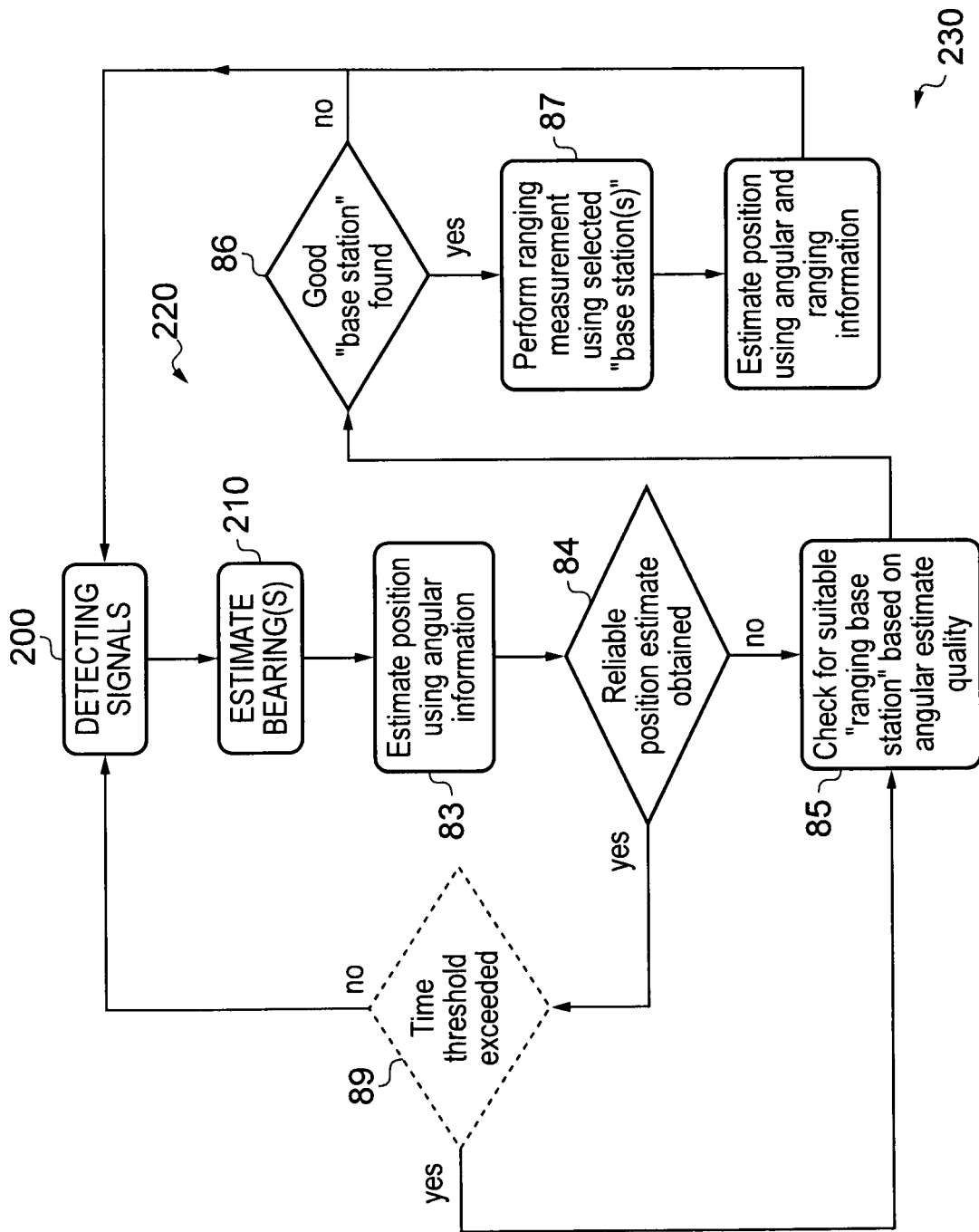


FIG. 8

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METHOD, AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE POSITION USING RADIO SIGNALS

RELATED APPLICATION

This application was originally filed as PCT Application No. PCT/IB2010/050861 filed Mar. 1, 2010.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of the present invention relate to positioning. In particular, they relate to a method, an apparatus, a module, a chipset or a computer program for positioning using radio signals.

BACKGROUND TO THE INVENTION

There are a number of known techniques for determining the position of an apparatus using radio frequency signals. Some popular techniques relate to use of the Global Positioning System (GPS), in which multiple satellites orbiting Earth transmit radio frequency signals that enable a GPS receiver to determine its position. However, GPS is often not very effective in determining an accurate position indoors.

Some non-GPS positioning techniques enable an apparatus to determine its position indoors. However, some of these techniques do not result in an accurate position being determined, and others are too complex for use simply in a portable apparatus. For example, the amount of processing power required to perform the technique may be impractical to provide in a portable apparatus, which may need to perform concurrent functions.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

According to various embodiments of the invention there is provided a method, comprising: detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location; using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location; and using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information.

According to various embodiments of the invention there is provided an apparatus, comprising: a receiver configured to detect one or more radio signals from a first location; processing circuitry configured to use the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing of the apparatus from the first location; and configured to use the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and configured to position the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information.

According to various embodiments of the invention there is provided an apparatus, comprising: means for detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location; means for using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location; and means for using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and means for positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information.

According to various embodiments of the invention there is provided a module, comprising: processing circuitry configured to use one or more detected radio signals to estimate a

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bearing; and configured to use the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before determining a position; and configured to determine a position using a bearing and constraint information.

According to various embodiments of the invention there is provided a computer program, comprising computer readable instructions which when loaded into a processor enable: use of one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing; use of the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before determining a position; and using a bearing and constraint information to determine a position.

Some embodiments of the invention adaptively use different positioning strategies.

In some embodiments, two-way communications such as a ranging measurement is only used when required. This reduces power consumption and more efficiently shares the radio spectrum for communication while still providing for accurate positioning.

In some embodiments, the positioning method is dynamically adaptive and acquires new constraint information when required but only when required for accurate positioning.

In some embodiments, the positioning method is dynamically adaptive and acquires new constraint information by ranging only when it is likely to improve the accuracy of positioning.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a better understanding of various embodiments of the present invention reference will now be made by way of example only to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG. 1 illustrates an apparatus receiving radio signals from a transmitter;

FIG. 2A is a schematic of a transmitter apparatus;

FIG. 2B is a schematic of a receiver apparatus;

FIG. 3 is a flow diagram of a method of estimating a position of the apparatus;

FIG. 4 illustrates a schematic for estimating the position of the apparatus using a displacement or range as a constraint;

FIG. 5 illustrates a schematic for estimating the position of the apparatus using an additional bearing from another location as a constraint; and

FIG. 6 schematically illustrates two-way communication for ranging;

FIG. 7 schematically illustrates an example of a method of estimating a position of the apparatus; and

FIG. 8 schematically illustrates an example of a method of estimating a position of the apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF VARIOUS EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

The Figures illustrate detecting, at an apparatus **10**, radio signals **50** from a first location **80**; using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing **82** from the first location **80**; and using the bearing estimate **82** to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus **10**; and positioning of the apparatus **10** using a bearing and constraint information.

FIG. 1 illustrates a person **92** (carrying a receiver apparatus **10**) at a position **95** on a floor **100** of a building **94**. The building **94** could be, for example, a shopping center or a conference center.

A base station transmitter **30** is positioned at a location **80** of the building **94**. In the illustrated example, the location **80** is on the ceiling of the building **94** (i.e. the overhead interior surface) but in other implementations the transmitter may be placed elsewhere such as on a wall.

The location **80** is directly above the point denoted with the reference numeral **70** on the floor **100** of the building. The transmitter **30** is for enabling a user of an apparatus **10**, such as the person **92**, to determine his position **95**, although that is not necessarily the only function provided by the transmitter **30**. For example, the transmitter **30** may be part of a transceiver for providing wireless internet access to users of apparatuses **10**, for example, via wireless local area network (WLAN) radio signals.

The position **95** of the person **92** is defined by specifying a position along a bearing **82** (illustrated in FIG. 4) which runs from the location **80** of the transmitter **30** through the location **95** of the apparatus **10**. The bearing **82** is defined by an elevation angle θ and an azimuth angle ϕ .

FIG. 2A schematically illustrates one example of the base station transmitter **30**. The transmitter **30** comprises a controller **33**, transmitter circuitry **34** and an antenna array **36** comprising a plurality of antenna elements **32A**, **32B**, **32C** which transmit respective radio signals **50A**, **50B**, **50C** . . .

The one-way radio signals **50** may be transmitted periodically as beacons by the transmitter **30**. The beacons are broadcast to multiple apparatus simultaneously.

In the illustrated example, separate signals **50** are transmitted via the array **36** of antenna elements **32** in a time division multiplexed fashion. A switch **38** is used to connect each one of the antenna elements **32** to the transmitter circuitry **34** one at a time, in a predefined order. The radio signals **50A**, **50B**, **50C** from the different antenna elements **32A**, **32B**, **32C** are therefore transmitted sequentially in different slots of a frame.

In the Figure only three different displaced antenna elements **32** are illustrated, although in actual implementations more antenna elements **32** may be used. For example 16 patch antenna elements could be distributed over the surface of a hemisphere. Three is the minimum number of radio signals required at the receiver apparatus **10** to be able to determine a bearing **82**.

In other embodiments, there may be a separate transmitter circuit **34** associated with each antenna element **32**. In this embodiment, it may be possible to transmit one or more of the signals **50** in parallel.

Each signal **50** has a characteristic that enables it to be discriminated by the receiver apparatus **10**. The characteristic may be a feature of the signal itself such as a code sequence that has been modulated onto a carrier wave or it may be a feature of the signal's position relative to the other signals such as its 'slot' number within a frame. In the latter case, all of the signals in the slots of a frame may have the same or different code sequences.

The receiver apparatus **10** needs to obtain 'displacement information' from the received signals **50A**, **50B**, **50C** that is dependent upon inter alia the relative displacements of the respective antenna elements **32A**, **32B**, **32C**. In the example described in detail below, the displacement information includes phase information.

In one embodiment, it may be possible to modulate a carrier wave using convolution codes, as in code division multiple access. Explicit displacement information may then be determined at a receiver apparatus **10** by correlating the expected code against the received signal **50**.

One advantage of this approach is that knowledge of how the array **36** of antenna elements **32** transmits is not required

at the receiver as the displacement information is determined from data encoded onto the carrier rather than from a property of the carrier itself.

Another simpler embodiment, modulates the carrier wave using I-Q modulation, also known as quadrature phase shift modulation. In this modulation technique, two orthogonal carrier waves (sine and cosine) are independently amplitude modulated to define a symbol. At the receiver apparatus **10**, the amplitude of the two orthogonal carrier waves is detected as a complex sample and the closest matching symbol determined. It should be appreciated that an identical signal transmitted from different antenna elements will be received with different phases because of the inherent phase characteristics of the antenna elements **32** when transmitting in different directions and also because of the additional time of flight for a signal **50** from one antenna element to reach the receiver apparatus **10** compared to another signal **50**. The inherent presence of this 'time of flight' information within the phases of the received signals **50** enables the received signals **50** to be processed, as described in more detail below, to determine the bearing **82** of the receiver apparatus **10** from the transmitter **30**.

One advantage of this approach is that the resolution required for the displacement information to be able to resolve relative spatial separation between the antenna elements **32** of a few centimeters would require a carrier frequency of the order 10 GHz but a much lower modulation rate may be used and therefore correspondingly small bandwidth and slower clock can be used.

One disadvantage of this approach is that knowledge of how an antenna array **36** transmits is required at the receiver apparatus **10** as the inherent displacement information is determined from a property (phase) of the carrier itself and antenna elements **32** typically transmit with different phase offsets at different angles. This knowledge may take the form of an array transfer function.

FIG. 1B illustrates a schematic of a receiver apparatus **10**. The apparatus **10** may, for example, be a hand portable electronic device such as a mobile radiotelephone. The apparatus **10** comprises processing circuitry **12**, a storage device **14**, a receiver **16**, a user input device **18** and a user output device **20**.

The processing circuitry **12** uses one or more detected radio signals **50** to estimate a bearing **82** from the first location **80**; and uses the bearing estimate **82** to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus **10**; and positioning of the apparatus **10** using a bearing and constraint information.

The portable apparatus itself does not need to transmit to determine its position. Furthermore it alone may perform the processing necessary to determine a bearing **82** and to estimate, using the bearing and constraint information, the position of the apparatus **10** along the bearing **82**.

The processing circuitry **12** may be any type of processing circuitry. For example, the processing circuitry **12** may be a programmable processor that interprets computer program instructions **13** and processes data. Alternatively, the processing circuitry **12** may be, for example, programmable hardware with embedded firmware. The processing circuitry **12** may be a single integrated circuit or a set of integrated circuits (i.e. a chipset). The processing circuitry **12** may also be a hardwired, application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC).

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that, for clarity, the processing circuitry is described as being a separate entity to the receiver. However, it will be understood that the term processing circuitry may relate not only to a main processor of an apparatus, but also processing circuitry included in a dedicated receiver chipset, and even to a com-

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bination of processing circuitry included in a main processor and a dedicated receiver chipset.

A chipset for performing embodiments of the invention may be incorporated within a module. Such a module may be integrated within the apparatus 10, and/or may be separable from the apparatus 10.

The processing circuitry 12 is connected to receive an input from the receiver 16. The receiver 16 is configured to receive radio frequency signals. The radio signals may, for instance, have a transmission range of 100 meters or less.

For example, the radio frequency signals may be 802.11 wireless local area network (WLAN) signals, Bluetooth signals, Ultra wideband (UWB) signals or Zigbee signals.

The processing circuitry 12 is connected to write to and read from the storage device 14. The storage device 14 may be a single memory unit or a plurality of memory units.

The storage device 14 may store computer program instructions 13 that control the operation of the apparatus 10 when loaded into processing circuitry 12. The computer program instructions 13 may provide the logic and routines that enables the apparatus to perform the method illustrated in FIG. 3.

The computer program instructions 13 may arrive at the apparatus 10 via an electromagnetic carrier signal or be copied from a physical entity 21 such as a computer program product, a memory device or a record medium such as a CD-ROM or DVD.

The computer program instructions 13 provide: instructions for discriminating 210 between radio signals 50 received from a first location 80 by the receiver 16, in order to estimate 220 a bearing 82 from the first location 80; and instructions for estimating 230, using the bearing 82 and constraint information that is independent of the radio signals 50, a position of the receiver 16.

The processing circuitry 12 is connected to receive an input from the user input device 18. The processing circuitry 12 is also connected to provide an output to the user output device 20. The user output device 20 is for conveying information to a user and may be, for example, a display device. The user input device 18 and the user output device 20 together form a user interface 22. The user interface 22 may be provided as a single unit, such as a touch screen display device.

FIG. 3 illustrates a method for estimating the position of the apparatus 10. Various embodiments of the method of FIG. 3 will be described hereinafter. Although the method will be described in the context of diversity transmission, it should be appreciated that it is also applicable to diversity reception. In diversity transmission, multiple radio signals are sent from spatially diverse antennas as illustrated in FIG. 1. In diversity reception, a radio signal is received at spatially diverse antennas.

In the following it will be assumed that the respective spatially diverse transmitted radio signals 50A, 50B, 50C illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 2 are sent in different slots of a TDMA frame and that the same code is modulated onto the signals using IQ modulation, in this case Binary Phase Shift Key (BPSK) modulation as it is the most robust. It will be appreciated that in other embodiments different types of signals may be used and different methods of discriminating the signals will be required.

At block 200 of the method of FIG. 3, the receiver 16 of the apparatus 10 detects radio signals 50 including first, second and third radio signals 50A, 50B, 50C.

At block 210, the processing circuitry 12 of the apparatus 10 uses the detected radio signals 50 to estimate a bearing 82 of the apparatus 10 from the first location 80.

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The processing circuitry 12 may discriminate between the respective radio signals 50. In this example, this may be achieved by identifying which slot in the TDMA frame the signal was received in. At least three respective radio signals 50A, 50B and 50C will need to be discriminated.

The processing circuitry 12 obtains comparable complex samples (i.e. samples that represent same time instant) for the three respective radio signals 50A, 50B, 50C.

In some embodiments, the transmitter 30 may transmit calibration data 15 in a radio signal to the apparatus 10 for storage in memory 14, before the transmission of the radio signals 50, to enable the processing circuitry 12 of the apparatus 10 to discriminate between the radio signals 50. The calibration data 15 may, for example, be transmitted periodically as a beacon signal by the transmitter 30. In the described example, the calibration data 15 may include discrimination data that identifies the code used to modulate the signals, information about the TDMA frame, and possible information identifying the IQ modulation used and antenna array calibration data that includes information that defines the transfer function of the antenna array 36.

The calibration data 15 may be encrypted. A key to decrypt the calibration data 15 may be available from a remote server. For example, if the transmitter 30 is part of a transceiver for providing internet access, the decryption key may be obtainable from a remote server that is accessible via the transceiver. In an embodiment where the apparatus 10 also functions as a mobile telephone, the decryption key may be obtainable from a remote server connected to a mobile telephone network. Alternatively, the calibration data 15 itself may be available from a remote server via a mobile telephone network, rather than from the transmitter 30.

The processing circuitry 12 then estimates a bearing 82. One method of determining the bearing 82 is now described, but other methods are possible.

Once comparable complex samples (i.e. samples that represent same time instant) from each antenna element 32 are obtained the array output vector $y(n)$ (also called as snapshot) can be formed at by the processing circuitry 12.

$$y(n)=[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_M]^T, \quad (1)$$

Where x_i is the complex signal received from the i th TX antenna element 32, n is the index of the measurement and M is the number of TX elements 32 in the array 36.

A Direction of Departure (DoD) can be estimated from the measured snapshots if the complex array transfer function $a(\phi, \theta)$ of the TX array 36 is known, which it is from calibration data 15.

The simplest way to estimate putative DoDs is to use beam-forming, i.e. calculate received power related to all possible DoDs. The well known formula for the conventional beam-former is

$$P_{BF}(\phi, \theta) = a^*(\phi, \theta) \hat{R} a(\phi, \theta), \quad (2)$$

Where,

$$\hat{R} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N y(n) y^*(n)$$

is the sample estimate of the covariance matrix of the received signals, $a(\phi, \theta)$ is the array transfer function related to the DoD (ϕ, θ) , ϕ is the azimuth angle and θ is the elevation angle.

Once the output power of the beamformer $P_{BF}(\phi, \theta)$ is calculated in all possible DoDs the combination of azimuth and elevation angles with the highest output power is selected to be the bearing **82**.

The performance of the system depends on the properties of the TX array **36**. For example the array transfer functions $a(\phi, \theta)$ related to different DoDs should have as low correlation as possible for obtaining unambiguous results. Correlation depends on the individual radiation patterns of the antenna elements **32**, inter element distances and array geometry. Also the number of array elements **32** has an effect on performance. The more elements **32** the array **36** has the more accurate the bearing estimation becomes. In minimum there should be at least 3 antenna elements **32** in planar array configurations but in practice 10 or more elements should provide good performance.

Next, at block **220** the processing circuitry **12** uses the determined bearing estimate **82** to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus.

Next, at block **230** the processing circuitry **12** estimates a position of the apparatus **10** using a bearing and constraint information.

In some embodiments of the invention, the use of constraint information enables the processing circuitry **12** to determine the location of the apparatus **10** along the estimated bearing **82**.

FIG. **4** also illustrates the bearing **82** from the location **80** of the transmitter **30** to the location **95** of the apparatus **10**, which has been estimated by the processing circuitry **12** following reception of the radio signals **50**. The bearing **82** is defined by an elevation angle θ and an azimuth angle ϕ .

The processing circuitry **12** may estimate the position of the apparatus **10** relative to the location **80** of the transmitter **30** in coordinates using the bearing (elevation angle θ , azimuth angle ϕ) and constraint information e.g. vertical displacement h (FIG. **4**) or an additional bearing (FIG. **5**) or range r (FIG. **4**, FIG. **6**). The processing circuitry **12** may estimate the position of the apparatus **10** in Cartesian coordinates by converting the coordinates using trigonometric functions.

FIG. **5** illustrates a building **94** having two transmitters **30**, **130** located on the ceiling of the building **94** in this example. The two transmitters **30**, **130** are of the same form as that of the transmitter **30** described in relation to in FIG. **1**. The first transmitter **30** is positioned at a location **80** on the ceiling, directly above the point denoted with the reference numeral **70** on a floor **100** of the building **94**. The second transmitter **130** is positioned at a location **180** on the ceiling, directly above the point denoted with the reference numeral **170** on the floor **100**. The separation of the transmitters **30**, **130** is large in comparison with the separation of the antenna elements **32** or **132** with their respective arrays.

In this embodiment, the apparatus **10** receives radio signals **50** from the first transmitter **30** and determines a bearing **82** of the apparatus **10** as described in relation to FIG. **3**.

The apparatus **10** also receives radio signals **150** from the second transmitter **130** and determines, as constraint information, a bearing **182** of the apparatus **10** from the first transmitter **30** using the method as described in relation to FIG. **3**. The discrimination of the radio signals **150A**, **150B**, **150C** at block **210** and the estimation of the bearing **182** will require second calibration data including, for example, the transfer function of the antenna array used by the second transmitter **130**.

The apparatus **10** may receive second calibration data from the second transmitter **130**.

Once the bearings **82** and **182** have been estimated, the processing circuitry **12** may estimate that the apparatus **10** is situated at a position along bearing **82** as defined by the constraining bearing **182**. It may be that processing circuitry **12** estimates an area that the apparatus **10** is likely to be positioned in if the accuracy of the bearings **82**, **182** is such that the processing circuitry **12** is not able to pinpoint the position of the apparatus **10** with a high degree of precision. Once the position of the apparatus **10** has been estimated, the processing circuitry **12** may control the user output device **20** to convey the estimated position to the user.

FIG. **6** schematically illustrates a system comprising the apparatus **10** and the base station **30** at location **80**. The apparatus **10** and the base station **30** are configured to cooperate using two-way communication **64** to determine the range r between the base station **30** and the apparatus **10**.

At time t_0 , the apparatus **10** initiates the two-way communication **64** by sending a ranging request message **60**. The base station **30** receives the ranging request message **60** and sends immediately in reply the ranging reply message **62**. The time between the base station **30** receiving the ranging request message **60** and sending the ranging reply message **62** is t_s . The ranging reply message **62** is received at the apparatus **10** at time t_2 . The time of flight T_f from the apparatus **10** to the base station **30** and back to the apparatus **10** is therefore $t_2 - t_1 - t_s$. The range r is there $tf/2c$ where c is the speed of light.

FIG. **7** schematically illustrates a method in which an example of the block **220** of FIG. **3** is illustrated.

Blocks **200**, **210**, **230** are as described with reference to FIG. **3**. However, in some implementations there may be more than one base station transmitter **30** and a bearing may be determined for each base station transmitter **30**.

After estimating the bearing(s) at block **210**, at block **72** the method determines the quality of the bearing estimate(s) and determines which of the bearing estimates are of sufficient quality.

A bearing estimate may be of sufficient quality when there is a line of sight between the apparatus **10** and the base station transmitter **30**. A bearing estimate may be of insufficient quality when there is a multipath between the apparatus **10** and the base station transmitter **30**. A multipath may be evidenced by two or more inconsistent bearing estimates resulting from block **210** for a single base station transmitter **30**.

At block **73**, if no bearing estimate is of sufficient quality the method moves to block **76**, where the constraints for the positioning process **230** are set and do not include ranges.

At block **73**, if one or more bearing estimates is of sufficient quality the method moves to block **74**, where ranging of the base station transmitter **30** associated with the sufficient bearing is performed. If there is more than one suitable base station transmitter **30** associated with a sufficient bearing, a selection process may be carried out to select the one or more base station transmitters used for ranging. An example of the ranging method has previously been described with reference to FIG. **6**.

Next at block **75** the constraints for the positioning process **230** are set and include the range or ranges determined at block **74**.

FIG. **8** schematically illustrates a method in which an example of the block **220** of FIG. **3** is illustrated.

Blocks **200**, **210**, **230** are as described with reference to FIG. **3**. However, in some implementations there may be more than one base station transmitter **30** and a bearing may be determined for each base station transmitter **30**.

After estimating the bearing(s) at block **210**, at block **72** the method attempts to position the apparatus using only bearings. That is, a bearing (if available) is used as the constraint information.

At block **84** it is determined whether or not a reliable position estimate has been determined in block **83**.

If the answer is yes, the method through block **89** continues to determine additional bearings by repeating blocks **200**, **210** and then repeats block **83** improving the accuracy of the position by using more bearings as constraints. The method breaks, at block **89**, when a time threshold is exceeded. The method then moves to block **85**.

If the answer is no, the method moves to block **85**.

At block **85**, the quality of the bearing estimate(s) are determined and it is determined which of the bearing estimates are of sufficient quality.

A bearing estimate may be of sufficient quality when there is a line of sight between the apparatus and the base station transmitter. A bearing estimate may be of insufficient quality when there is a multipath between the apparatus and the base station transmitter. A multipath may be evidenced by two or more inconsistent bearing estimates resulting from block **210** for a single base station transmitter **30**.

Next at block **86**, if no bearing estimate is of sufficient quality the method moves back to block **200** to search for new base station transmitter candidates.

At block **86**, if one or more bearing estimates is of sufficient quality the method moves to block **87**, where ranging of the base station transmitter **30** associated with the sufficient bearing is performed. An example of the ranging method has previously been described with reference to FIG. 6.

Next at block **230** the range or ranges determined at block **87** are used as additional constraint information in the positioning process.

The method then returns to block **200** to search for new candidates for base station transmitters.

In the illustrated method, the block **89** escapes to block **85** when the time threshold is exceeded. In other implementation, the method may terminate when the time threshold is exceeded. In this implementation, it is possible that ranging is not required if a reliable position estimate can be obtained at block **84** without ranging.

The blocks illustrated in the FIGS. 3, 7 and 8 may represent steps in a method and/or sections of code in the computer program **13**. The illustration of a particular order to the blocks does not necessarily imply that there is a required or preferred order for the blocks and the order and arrangement of the block may be varied.

Although embodiments of the present invention have been described in the preceding paragraphs with reference to various examples, it should be appreciated that modifications to the examples given can be made without departing from the scope of the invention as claimed. For example, the apparatus **10** may not function as a mobile telephone. It may, for example, be a portable music player having a receiver for receiving radio signals.

Various examples of constraint information have been given in the preceding paragraphs, but the term "constraint information" it is not intended to be limited to these examples.

Features described in the preceding description may be used in combinations other than the combinations explicitly described.

Whilst endeavoring in the foregoing specification to draw attention to those features of the invention believed to be of particular importance it should be understood that the Applicant claims protection in respect of any patentable feature or

combination of features hereinbefore referred to and/or shown in the drawings whether or not particular emphasis has been placed thereon.

We claim:

1. A method, comprising:

detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location;

using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location;

using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and

positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information that includes information that defines a transfer function of an antenna array of the first location, wherein constraint information use in positioning of the apparatus is based on a quality of the bearing estimate.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising obtaining the constraint information by receiving further radio signals.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the constraint information comprises at least one of a bearing and a range.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the bearing estimate is used to determine whether ranging the first location by further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus, wherein the range is at least part of the constraint information.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein ranging the first location comprises two-way radio communication originated by the apparatus and terminated by the further detection of one or more radio signals.

6. A method as claimed in claim 4, further comprising determining whether the bearing estimate is of sufficient quality, and ranging the first location when the bearing estimate is of sufficient quality.

7. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the bearing estimate is used to determine whether estimating a second bearing to a second location by further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus.

8. A method as claimed in claim 4, determining whether the bearing estimate is of sufficient quality, and estimating the second bearing to the second location when the bearing estimate is of insufficient quality.

9. A method as claimed in claim 4, comprising:

detecting, at the apparatus, one or more radio signals from a second location;

using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a second bearing from the second location;

using the bearing estimate and the second bearing estimate to determine whether ranging the first location and/or second location by further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transfer function of the antenna array is defined by information that is transmitted to multiple apparatuses via a one-way broadcast communication.

11. A method as claimed in claim 1, using the bearing estimate to determine whether the origination of two-way radio signalling is required before positioning the apparatus.

12. A method as claimed in claim 1, detecting, at the apparatus, the one or more radio signals from the first location at spatially diverse antennas.

13. A method, comprising:

detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location;

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using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location;
 using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and
 positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information including information that defines a transfer function of an antenna array of the first location, wherein each of the foregoing steps are performed solely at a hand portable apparatus.

14. An apparatus, comprising:

a receiver configured to detect one or more radio signals from a first location;

processing circuitry configured to use the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing of the apparatus from the first location; and configured to use the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and configured to position the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information that includes information that defines a transfer function of an antenna array of the first location, wherein constraint information use in positioning of the apparatus is based on a quality of the bearing estimate.

15. An apparatus as claimed in claim **14**, wherein the receiver is configured to obtain the constraint information by receiving further radio signals.

16. An apparatus as claimed in claim **14**, wherein the constraint information comprises at least one of a bearing and a range.

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17. An apparatus, comprising:

means for detecting, at an apparatus, one or more radio signals from a first location;

means for using the one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing from the first location;

means for using the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before positioning the apparatus; and

means for positioning of the apparatus using a bearing and constraint information that includes information that defines a transfer function of an antenna array of the first location, wherein constraint information use in positioning of the apparatus is based on a quality of the bearing estimate.

18. A computer program product, comprising a non-transitory computer readable medium having computer readable instructions stored thereon, which when executed by a processor causes an apparatus to:

use of one or more detected radio signals to estimate a bearing;

use of the bearing estimate to determine whether further detection of one or more radio signals is required before determining a position; and

use a bearing and constraint information including information that defines a transfer function of an antenna array to determine a position, wherein constraint information use in positioning of the apparatus is based on a quality of the bearing estimate.

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